The essence of

Eid-ul-Adha

What really is Sacrifice / Qurban?

Hazrathji Maulana Saad [damath baraka tuhum]

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The essence of Eid ul Adha.
What really is Sacrifice / Qurbani?

Translation of a brilliant speech delivered in Urdu by Hazrathji Maulana Sa'ad [damath baraka tuhum] on the topic of Eid ul Adha.

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Translation of the above lecture starts here:

My dear friends and elders! That work which is not made into a worship will become a mere ritual. Really, this is the difference between worshiping and performing mere rituals.

Rituals and festivals are for the non-Muslims and worship and sacrifice are for the Muslims.

But, because of ignorance…because we do not believe in the rewards that Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala has promised us nor have knowledge of the rewards that we'd gain through worship, the worship of Muslims has become like that of the festivals of the non-Muslims. People think that the eid of the Muslims are festivals, if such things are said by the non-Muslims, its fine, what do they know what worship is…but if Muslims think Eid's are festivals?

If Muslims think of eid's as festivals…before Islam when the non-Muslims wanted to celebrate, such days were fixed.

Didn't the Companions [ra] say to the Prophet [peace be upon him] "O Prophet of Allah! On this day during the age of ignorance, we used to celebrate, make merry". The Prophet [peace be upon him] replied: "No! Allah has given you something much better in return, Allah has given you 2 days in return for that 1 day, one is Eid ul Fitr and the other is Eid ul Adha".

Remember, that night is a night of worship whose [following] day is also a day of worship [meaning the night before the eid and day of eid]. People spend the night before eid doing shopping instead of in ibaadah! And that too in wasteful expenditure instead on giving in charity!

And its surprising people during the time of eid spend their wealth on clothes instead of on the command of Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala ! Spend money on their desires rather than on the command of Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala. See! For Allah the most favorite, desired wealth is that which is spent on sacrifice of animals [for Eid ul adha]. This also comes in the hadith, the most desired wealth in front of Him is that which is spent on sacrifice.

My dear friends and elders! Deen has left from the hearts of the ummah, now any talk regarding sacrifice [qurbani] and people would think of sacrificial animals, and any talk regarding daawah [inviting towards Islam] and people would think of eating food. Talk of daawah and it'll be assumed people are having food and talk of sacrifice, and people will think of sacrificial animals. Yes.

When actually, we today purchase the animal and sacrifice it while Hazrath Ibrahim [Prophet Abraham] [peace be upon him] brought up his son [Prophet Isma'il, peace be upon him] and then sacrificed him.

Just think, we 'buy' the animal and sacrifice it while Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] brought up his own son, not a lamb, it was his own son and then sacrificed him. And then in return, Allah granted Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] a lamb for sacrificing…"that you [referring to the Prophet] attempted sacrificing your own son upon My orders, for My sake" and Oh ho! Every single kid who is born on this earth and who dies before they attain puberty are all with Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] Every single one of them from all over the world! Even if they have taken birth in a Jewish home, or a Christian home or a Hindu, or a Sikh, anything…

"You sacrificed your son for Me - even though I didn't allow your son to die, now you tell me how many children you want?".

Under a shade of a tree, Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] is seated with all those many kids. That is how much Allah liked his [Prophet's] sacrifice. Every single kid ever born and who dies in that way is with Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] because he sacrificed his son for Allah's sake and Allah granted him thus.

Listen my dear friends! Give sacrifice with all your heart.

People tend to purchase weak, feeble sacrificial animal, why ?!

Listen…when there is NO belief in the promises of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala, then worship becomes a huge burden…when there is no belief, knowledge of the rewards that Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala has promised us, then worship becomes… a huge burden. When such a thing happens, we'll think… okay, the day of Eid is coming and we will have to sacrifice animals. Lets purchase a sacrificial animal and…

It surprises me…people haggle over the price of the animal, make it less, make it cheaper…make it cheaper! Lo! And not just that, even blame the sellers and say that what you are quoting is too costly…that you have paid too much for the animal…that you have been cheated etc etc!

I even heard a man saying “Oh, Ho! You have paid too much for the animal, you have wasted your money”...not at all, this is really the time to spend, this is a great opportunity to spend your money, just think... you are buying it for the sake of Allah, it doesn’t matter how much you’re paying it, whatever it takes.

My dear friends and elders! Sacrifice [qurbani] does not mean killing an animal but performing such a deed in a way which will bring you closer to Allah subhanahu wa ta’la.

Performing every such deed, the aim of which is to get near to Allah, which Allah likes, is what is known as Qurbani [sacrifice].

And if the goal of such deeds is not to seek nearness to Allah, then performing such deeds cannot be called worship.

The Eid’s are an opportunity for physical and monetary sacrifice, both, physical as well as monetary. In Eid ul Adha, both the things are present - salah as well as sacrifice, ...physical sacrifice by performing special salah of Eid and also your wealth by giving sacrifice of the animal.

And in Eid ul Fitr, give charity [fitrah] as well as perform salah, yes!.

Salah and charity in Eid ul Fitr and...

Salah and sacrifice in Eid ul Adha.

It comes in the traditions [ahadith] of Prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] that “Whosoever has the capability of offering sacrifice and does NOT do so then let that person not even come close to my masjid”. Let that person not come close to my place of worship, my masjid, my place. But people don’t have faith in these things *[Translator note: It indicates weak faith].*

But they will spend an enormous amount of wealth on weddings, and on clothing themselves, such that the community’s wealth is being spent on fulfilling their desires, freely spent on all those things which are in effect causing us to move further apart from Allah and saved from all those things which would have brought us nearer to Allah Subhanahu wa ta’la.

[*Translator note: Hazrathji emphasises upon the above words by saying them twice*].

Therefore, the two days of Eid are meant for both, worship as well as sacrifice, and in the same way, their previous nights too are for worship.

[Translator note: In the case of Eid ul Fitr, its sacrifice of wealth]

The nights before the Eid have so much significance that if one worships in those nights, then paradise is obligatory [Wa’jib] upon such a person.

Five nights!

Yes, there are five nights that if a person worships in those nights, then paradise is obligatory upon such a person.

Yes! Such deeds are known as virtues on the performance of which Allah promises rewards, but we no more have knowledge or believe in what reward we'd be getting for performing such and such a deed. Whoever does not keep the knowledge of virtues...I think brothers....in the work of tabligh, for a short while he'd listen to ta'lim, ta'lim also being one of the activities, actually, keep listening to the virtues so much...SO much that you'd know the virtue of every single deed when the opportunity of performing it comes up before you such that you'd know what to do at this time and this time and this time....

(What do you think) Is ta'lim just another activity in the work of tabligh...??!

Keep knowledge of the virtues of performing each and every single deed you'd get in the 24 hours of a day...and if you don't have knowledge nor have belief then you can't benefit from the work.

A person who lets go of opportunities of worship lives in ignorance.

Therefore, my dear friends, this night too is a night of worship as well as tomorrow is also a day of worship - the day of Eid. Today's night...is a night of worship, just like the night of Arafat, yes!

Yesterdays' night too was a night of worship just like today's night is a night of worship.

8 Dhul Hijjah - Day of Tarwiyah, then.. 9 Dhul Hijjah - Day of Arafah, then...10 Dhul Hijjah - Day of Qurbani - Whosoever worships in these three subsequent nights, Jannah would be obligatory upon him. The other two nights are different - the night before Eid ul Fitr and 15th of Shabaan. Plus these three nights....how many nights in total? Five! Five nights in total.

Therefore, whoever worships in these five nights then jannah is obligatory upon such a person. Where are the people on the eve of Eid? In the bazaars. No my brothers, all these are but opportunities for ibaadah and its actually commanded that people decorate the days of Eid by proclaiming the greatness of Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala [takbeer].

زَيِّنُوا أَعْيَادَكُمْ بِالتَّكْبِير

"ZAYYINU AYYADAKUM BITTAKBIR"

Adorn your Eid's by proclaiming the greatness of Allah subhanahu wa ta'la.

Whatever the Muslims have received - they have received it in opposition to the non-Muslims.

That this day was the day they [the non-Muslims in the age of ignorance] decorated their false deities, washed them, cleaned them, beautified them - but right on this day the Muslims were commanded to praise Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala, yes, praise Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala or adorn your Eid's by proclaiming the greatness of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala.

Its commanded…"ZAYYINU AYYADAKUM BITTAKBIR" meaning adorn your Eid's by proclaiming the greatness of Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala.

So my dear friends and elders, tomorrows is a day of worship as well as today's night too is a night of worship, tomorrow being the day of Eid ul Adha.

And give Qurbani [sacrifice] with ALL YOUR HEART, yes, with ALL YOUR HEART, with happiness, with fondness, with all your heart… give sacrifice of the animal and only if one has any love for the sacrificial animal would it then be called a sacrifice, isn't it?.

May Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala forgive us all…some people give such a type of qurbani, that on day of Eid they'd give some money to their servants with orders to purchase a sacrificial animal, and give its sacrifice, yes, the rich people don't even know what kind of animal was purchased, they just give the money and give orders for its sacrifice.

[Translator note: Hazrathji Maulana Sa'ad places a lot of emphasis and speaks with a lot of concern when he speaks the above words].

Once when Hazrathji Maulana Yusuf [rahmatullah alayh] was very young, he reared a goat in his house and that goat was such that…every member of his family absolutely loved it, it even used to sit on the cot and not on the ground and it was so much loved that everyone in the family wanted to have a part of their food set aside from their own to feed the animal - such was the love everybody in the household had for the animal. A part of every fruit, bread, sweets etc, that was in the house had to have a part of it set aside for the goat, and because of this, it was even wonderfully healthy, **even Hazrathji Maulana Yusuf [rahmatullah alayh] used to love it a lot.**

Then the day of Qurbani arrived and members in his household asked him to get a sacrificial animal, to which Hazrathji replied: "The sacrificial animal is in the house itself!! What's the need of buying any other animal?!". The family members were shocked and replied: **"No! Its like our son! We are not going to sacrifice him!".**

Hazrathji Yusuf replied: Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him] too reared his own son, not any others and then… sacrificed him, it was his OWN son!

The WHOLE household of Hazrathji Maulana Yusuf [rahmatullah alayh] was crying profusely when the goat was being sacrificed, seeing which Hazratji said "Now, THIS is REAL sacrifice!!".

And then when its meat came into the house, nobody wanted to believe that the goat had been sacrificed, yes. Hazrathji Maulana Yusuf [rahmatullah alayh] later said: “When we cooked its meat and sat down to eat, we were all crying thinking that this was the same goat that we so lovingly reared all these years…used to feed it, nurture it for all these years”.

That's why I suggest, buy the sacrificial animal that many days earlier from the day of Qurbani that you develop an attachment towards it, you develop love towards it. Yes!

Upon such a suggestion people would think that the animal would dirty the house…

Ah! Rather, we should have love towards the sacrificial animal, yes, have love towards the animal, what happens in the houses of the rich? They buy the animal, sacrifice it at the slaughterhouse itself, and what's more the meat doesn’t even reach the house too!!

Much more money gets spent on our desires, where is the sacrifice in spending only a thousand rupees in purchasing the animal and then sacrificing it?

Therefore, if you have to give the qurbani tomorrow then at-least buy the animal that many days before during which you’d be able to develop attachment, love towards it. And only then you sacrifice it.

Because the Quran says:

لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتّٰى تُنْفِقُوْا مِما تُحِبُّوْنَ

“You shall never attain righteousness unless you spend from what you love.”

[3:92]

[Taqi Usmani]

So my dear friends and elders! The thing is because we do not believe in the rewards that Allah subhanahu wa ta’ala has promised us nor have knowledge of the rewards that we’d gain through worship, nor care to reflect back on our deeds….**lots and lots of changes have creeped into our worship, yes, lots of changes have creeped into our worship, ritualistic behavior has creeped in, yes, ritualistic behavior.**

Like people perform rituals, we are performing the commands [ahkaam] of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala!

My dear friends and elders, without belief in promises of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala, there is NO reward, yes, without knowledge and belief in the rewards that Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala has promised us for the performance of a deed, without reflecting on our worship, there are no rewards.

Hazrat Umar [ra] used to say:

لا أَجْرَ لِمَنْ لا حِسْبَةَ لَه

"Without belief in the rewards that Allah has promised us on the performance of good deeds, there is NO reward"

[Refer A1]

It comes in the traditions that the Last Prophet [peace be upon him] said:

"Whoever stands up (in worship) in the nights preceding the two Eids expecting rewards from his Lord, his heart will not die when the other hearts will die." [Ibn Majah]

Its reported from Hazrath Ayesha [may Allah be pleased with her] that the Last prophet, Prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] said: "The most desired deed that Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala loves is Qurbani, flowing of blood through the deed of sacrifice, there is no other deed more desired deed than this for Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala".

And on the day of judgement, this same sacrificial animal with its horns, its hairs, etc will appear before us in the same way it was sacrificed...so, Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala has promised rewards over this. See! [Refer A2]

Before even the blood of the sacrificial animal falls to the ground, Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala forgives the sins of the one who gives the sacrifice and such a person in return gets thawab for each and every single hair of the sacrificial animal.

The Companions [Sahabah] [may Allah be pleased with them] once asked the Last Prophet [peace be upon him]: "O Prophet of Allah! What really is Qurbani?", the Prophet [peace be upon him] replied:

"It is the sunnah [practice] of your father, Prophet Ibrahim [peace be upon him], then the Sahabah asked "What are the rewards in it for us?", the Prophet [peace be upon him] replied: "There is a reward for every hair of the sacrificial animal", Sahabah then asked: "One reward for each animal in the whole group??", the Last Prophet [peace be upon him] replied" "No, No! Rewards for each and every single hair on the body of each sacrificial animal !! Not just one reward for one animal". [Refer A3]

Yes. Not just one reward for one animal but reward for each and every single hair of the animal.

The Last Prophet [peace be upon him] told Hazrath Fathima [daughter of the Prophet, may Allah be pleased with her]: "O Fathima, Stand up towards your Qurbani and give your qurbani yourself because even before the blood of the sacrificial animal falls to the ground, all your past sins will be forgiven".

The Sahabah [ra] asked "Is this superiority [of a reward for each and every single hair on the body of the sacrificial animal] exclusively to you, your family and us or for everyone?". The Prophet [peace be upon him replied] "No! This reward is for each and every single Muslim."

"Who all? Each and every single Muslim".

And then the Prophet [peace be upon him] said: "O Fathima!, On the day of Judgement, the meat of the sacrificial animal will be weighed on your scales and Allah subhanahu wa ta'la will increase its weight on to 70 times its original!!". [Refer A4]

Yes, 70 times!

So if you want Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala to increase that reward and if you want more and more of that, then here in this world, **buy a weighty sacrificial animal not a frail, weak animal which looks as if its about to die.**

No my friends and elders! Have belief and knowledge of the reward that you would gain of performance of every deed you may perform, reflect upon every deed you perform, having knowledge and belief in the rewards that Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala has promised upon each and every deed that you are doing or that which you wish to do, by doing this there shall be progress in your deeds.

The Last Prophet, Prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] once said: "That whosoever performs sacrifice with the depths of his heart hoping to get rewarded for his sacrifice, then his sacrifice would act as a curtain between him and Jahannum and his sacrifice will act as a barricade between him and Jahannum. [Refer A5]

The Last Prophet, Prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] once said: "That whosoever is capable of performing Qurbani but he does not perform, then such a person should not come close to my eidgah [place where the Eid salah is offered]. [Refer A6]

It comes in one of the traditions, the Last Prophet, Prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] said:

"That whosoever sells the skin of the sacrificial animal, *[Translator note: referring to the person's own sacrificial animal that he has sacrificed]* meaning he has performed the sacrifice, sells the skin in exchange for money then let that person know that he won't be rewarded for such kind of sacrifice, such a person won't get any reward for such a kind of sacrifice". [Refer A7]

Therefore my dear friends and elders! Qurbani needs to be done with fondness and from the depths of your heart and remember, this night is a night of worship, tomorrow morning, be done with your necessities quickly, after salah there will be a speech, and after the speech, quickly finish up with your requirements, then there will be talk of guidance for those who will be returning to their homes, and Allah willing, the Eid ul Adha will be prayed at 9 AM...

[Translator note: Its obvious here that Hazratji Maulana Sa'ad (damath baraka tuhum) is giving this lecture on the eve of Eid ul Adha].

End of speech. Translation completed.

This miniscule effort is for the sake of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala. Translation word to word is very tough, and this has been a team effort. Please make duas for all those involved in the translation.

Any mistake is mine and all good is from Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala.

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Glossary and references:

Some ahadith referenced:

A1.

[Source of the above Hadith]

A2.

[Translator note: Here is the full hadith: Ayesha Radhiailohu 'anha narrates that Rasullullah Sallallohu Alaihi Wasallam said: "Man does not do any deed on the day of sacrifice that is more beloved to Allah than causing blood to flow from the sacrificial animal. The animal will come on the day of resurrection with its horns, hair and hooves. The blood is accepted by Allah before it can fall to the ground You should therefore carry this out wholeheartedly."
(Tirmidhi 1498, [Ibn e Majah 3126)]

A3.

[Translator note: Here is the full hadith: Zayd ibn Arqam Radhiallohu 'anhu narrates: The companions of Rasullullah Sallallohu Alaihi Wasallam asked: "What are these sacrificial animals. Oh Rasullullah?" He said: "It is the way of your father, Ibrahim Alaihi Salaam." They asked: "What is there for us. O Rasullullah?" He said: "One good deed for every hair." They asked: "What about wool?" He said: "One good deed for every fibre of wool."
(Ibn Majah, Ahmad)]

A4.

[Translator note: Here are the full Hadiths:

a) Sayyiduna Zayd ibn Arqam (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Companions asked, 'O Messenger of Allah! What is Udhiya?' He replied, 'It is the Sunna of your father Ibrahim (peace be upon him).' They asked again, 'What benefit do we get from it?' He answered, 'A reward for every hair (of the sacrificed animal).' They asked 'And [what reward is there for animals with] wool, O Messenger of Allah?' He replied, 'A reward for every fiber of the wool.' (Sunan Ibn Majah).

b) Sayyiduna Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that Rasullullah (peace be upon him) said: "O Fatima! Come and witness your sacrificial animal being slaughtered for surely, by the first drop of blood that lands on the ground, there will be forgiveness for you for every sin. Listen! It will be brought with its blood and flesh. It will then be placed in your scale of deeds multiplied by 70 times." Abu Sa'id (may Allah be pleased with him) asked: "O Rasullullah! Is this reward specifically for the family of Muhammad (peace be upon him) for they are worthy of having good set aside specifically for them, or is it for the family of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Muslims in general?The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "It is for the family of Muhammad and the Muslims in general." (Hakim)]

A5.

[Translator note: Here is the full hadith: Hasan ibn Ali Radhiallohu 'anhu narrates that Rasullullah Sallallohu Alaihi Wasallam said: "He who sacrifices wholeheartedly and expects a reward for his sacrifice, it will be a barrier for him from the hell-fire" (Tabrani)]

A6.

[Translator note: Here is the full hadith: Hazrat Abu Hurairah may Allah be pleased with him reports that the Apostle of Allah peace and blessings be upon him has said : "Whoever has the capacity to sacrifice and does not do so, should not come to the place where the Eid prayer is offered." (Ibn Majah)]

A7.

[Translator note: Here is the full hadith: Sayyiduna Abu Hurayra (Allah be pleased with him) narrates that the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) said: "Whosoever sells the skin of his

ritually slaughtered animal (udhiya or qurbani), he has no (reward for his) sacrifice." (Mustadrak of al-Hakim, p: 685 & Sunan al-Bayhaqi)].

Glossary of few key words:

Ibaadah / Ibaadat means worship.

Rasam / Rusuvaat means rituals.

Salah / Namaz means prayers.

Jannah: Paradise

Jahannum: Hell

Ehtesaab: Considering the reward of and having knowledge and belief of performing good deeds before performing them, also means Reflection.

Ta'lim: Means reading a book on virtues of performing good deeds.

Eidain: Days of eid.

Dhul Hijjah: Dhu al-Hijjah (ذو الحجة) is the twelfth and final month in the Islamic Calendar.

Day of Tarwiyah: Meaning day of giving water.

Day of Arafat: Arafat is a name of a place in Saudi Arabia and the Day of Arafa (Arabic: يوم عرفة) is an Islamic Holy Day, in which it is said that the religion had been perfected. The original day was on a Friday, but now the Day falls on the 9th day of Dhul Hijja (ذو الحجة) of the lunar Islamic Calendar. This happens to be approximately 70 days after the end of the month of Ramadan. It is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage and the day after it is the major Islamic Holiday of Eid ul-Adha. At dawn of this day, Muslim pilgrims will make their way from Mina to a nearby hillside and plain called Mount Arafa and the Plain of Arafa. It was from this site that Muhammad gave his famous Farewell Sermon in his final year of life. Peace be upon him.

Wa'jib: Obligation / Compulsory.

Takbir: Proclaiming the Greatness of Allah by reciting, Allahu Akbar meaning "Allah is the Greatest.

Hadrath / Hazrath: Respected.

Hazrathji Maulana Yusuf: Muhammad Yusuf Kandhlawi (Arabic: مولانا محمد يوسف كاندهلوي) also known as Hadhratji (1917–1965) was an Islamic religious scholar in pre/post-independence India, who became the second ameer of tablighi jamaat. He was born to a notable family of scholars and was exposed to an environment of piety at a young age. He memorized the Quran at the age of ten and continued to study

Hadith and the Islamic Sciences. He had a deep connection with the scholars of the time, and was recognized as one of the great scholars of the time. After his father, Muhammad Ilyas died, he became the Ameer of Tablighi Jamaat.[citation needed] He spent a lot of time and effort in Tabligh as well as scholarly writings. His two most famous books are: Hayat Al-Sahabah ("The Prophet's Companions' Way of Life") and the four volumes of Amani Al-Ahbar Fi Sharh Ma'ani Al-Athar, which is an annotation of a major work by Imam Ahmad Al-Tahawi. He wrote the books Hayatus Sahabah and Muntakhab Ahadith, founded recently by Muhammad Saad from his book library. Muhammad Yusuf died at the age of 48 in Lahore.

Ahkaam / Hukum: Command or commands of Allah.

Udhiyah: Means Qurbani / Sacrifice.

Sunnah: Practice.

Ta'lim: Ta'lim means reading a book on virtues of performing good deeds, for ex. In the work of tabligh, it is advised to read Fadhail e Amaal or Virtues of good deeds, Muntakabh Ahadith or Selected Ahadith and Hayat us Sahabah or Stories from the life of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him].